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	21	EK				
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		SUSPENSE	8 Jan 86 Date			

Remarks

To 5: Please have comments made direct.

Executive Secretary

3 Jan 86

Date

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

86-0009

8 JAN 86

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF STATE
(ATTN: MR. ROBERT CARROLL, PM/OFFICE OF PUBLIC DIPLOMACY, TELEPHONE: 632-5097)
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
(ATTN: [redacted] 25X1
ROOM #2E-49; TELEPHONE: [redacted] 25X1
DIRECTOR, UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY
(ATTN: CDR MIKE FARLOW, TELEPHONE: 485-8650)
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS (ATTN: MR. STEVE STEINER, TELEPHONE: 395-5697)
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
(ATTN: [redacted] 25X1

SUBJECT: Soviet Military Power 1986

Attached for your review and comments is the Preface for Soviet Military Power 1986. Request your concurrence/comments not later than 8 January 1986.

The Defense point of contact is Lt Colonel Keck, Office of the Executive Secretariat (Room 3E854; Tel: 694-0732).

David R. Brown
Executive Secretary

Attachments

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PREFACE

With the unprecedented deployment of mobile SS-25 Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles to operational ICBM regiments in 1985, the Strategic Rocket Forces of the Soviet Union confronted the world with a new and harsh reminder of the USSR's intensive drive for successively more capable generations of offensive military forces.

Deployment of the USSR's highly accurate, fourth-generation silo-based SS-18 Mod 4 ICBMs—308 ICBMs with 3,080 nuclear warheads—was just reaching completion as the first of these new, highly survivable road-mobile fifth-generation SS-25s, capable of delivering their nuclear payloads to 10,000 kilometers range, entered the field. At the same time, test firings of the fifth-generation rail-mobile SS-X-24 ICBM were continuing, and preparations were underway at Soviet missile test ranges for test-flights of three future ICBMs being developed to build on the capabilities of the fourth and fifth generations. By the mid-1990s, nearly all of the USSR's currently deployed strategic nuclear attack forces—ICBMs, sea-based ballistic missiles and manned strategic bombers—will have been replaced by more-advanced strategic nuclear weapons systems.

In parallel with the offensive strategic advances of 1985, the Soviet Union pressed forward with the introduction of new generations of strategic defense systems: the construction of new over-the-horizon radars and large phased-array radars capable of tracking greater numbers of targets with the increased accuracy required for ballistic missile defense; the introduction of two new classes of silo-based ABM interceptor missiles in the operational Moscow ABM system; and the development of rapidly deployable ABM tracking and engagement radars and, interceptor missiles with the potential for a very rapid nationwide breakout from the 100 ABM launcher limit of the 1972 ABM Treaty. In 1985 the USSR pressed forward with advanced strategic defense technology programs focused on the development of high-energy lasers, kinetic energy weapons, radio frequency weapons and particle beam weapons. These Soviet programs already have produced ground-based lasers capable of interfering with satellites. By the late 1980s, the USSR may well advance to the introduction of ground based lasers capable of hitting ballistic missiles in flight.

Over the past five years, successive editions of *Soviet Military Power* have charted this continuing growth and modernization of the USSR's Armed Forces across the entire spectrum of the Strategic Rocket Forces, the Ground Forces of the Army, the Air Forces, the Navy and the National Air Defense Forces.

- During this half decade Soviet Ground Forces have grown from 180 to 200 divisions, and are still growing. Powerful new ground force corps almost twice the size of tank divisions, with 25,000 men, more than 450 main battle tanks, 600 infantry vehicles and 300 artillery pieces and multiple rocket launchers, are being evaluated for the conduct of large-scale, high-speed raid and exploitation in Soviet ground force operations.
- New main battle tanks of the T-64, T-72 and T-80 series have been entering the Soviet inventory of 53,000 main battle tanks at a rate of 2,500-to-3,200 a year.
- Since 1981, the USSR has produced some 5,000 new fighter and interceptor aircraft for its air forces and 47 new major surface combatants for the expanding forces of the Soviet Navy.
- The number of deployed, mobile nuclear-tipped SS-20 missiles has almost

doubled from 250 in 1981 to 441 in 1985—an increase from 750 to 1,323 nuclear warheads, with a like number available in refire missiles, ready for delivery against targets in Europe and Asia at ranges up to 5,000 kilometers.

As we enter the latter half of the 1980s, there is no slackening to the pace of Soviet military forces deployments; to the percentage of resources dedicated to the Armed Forces; the industrial capacity required for continued force modernization; the research, development and theft of Western technology required for new generations of weapons systems; the commitment to improved readiness, mobility and sustainability required to support Soviet forces; and the continued projection of power beyond Soviet borders. To the contrary, by each of these measures, Soviet military power continues to rise.

Within the past year:

- The fourth TYPHOON and the third DELTA IV-Class strategic ballistic missile submarines have been launched, adding to the number of longer-range, more accurate MIRVed nuclear warheads in the USSR's SSBN force. Additional units of each class are under construction. A still newer class of strategic ballistic missile submarines is likely to enter the force in the early 1990s.
- Additional units of the new supersonic manned strategic BLACKJACK bomber have emerged from the construction hall at Kazan to participate in advanced flight testing of the new bomber, which will be the primary launch platform for the 3,000-kilometer, nuclear-armed AS-15 cruise missile. At the same time, additionally units of the new BEAR H strategic bomber have been produced, with more than 36 BEAR H bombers now operational with the air-launched AS-15 cruise missile aboard. The BEAR H bombers have approached to within 50 miles of the Aleutians while flying a polar route toward the north coast of Alaska. US aircraft have been scrambled to intercept these bombers at least 12 times since January 1985 near Alaska and in the Greenland/Iceland/United Kingdom gap over the North Atlantic—both routes well-suited for operational training against the United States.
- Increased deployment of the strategic air-launched cruise missile has been accompanied by advanced testing of the sea-launched and ground-launched variants of this missile. Over the next 10 years, it is likely that the USSR will deploy 2,000-to-3,000 of these nuclear armed cruise missiles, and in the process will achieve an entirely new dimension of multidirectional offensive strategic nuclear capabilities for its forces.
- With the continuing deployment of the SA-10 surface-to-air missile and the advanced test-firing of the SA-X-12 SAM system, the USSR has continued to build toward the nationwide deployment of advanced systems not only with air defense capabilities against manned bombers and cruise missiles but also capabilities against ballistic missiles.
- The Soviet Navy's new 65,000-ton aircraft carrier, almost twice the displacement of the KIEV-Class carriers, has now been launched and begun fitting out in preparation for its first operational deployments later in the decade.
- Both of the USSR's new generation of space launchers vehicles are moving forward on accelerated schedules, with successful test flights of the new medium-lift booster that will carry the manned space place into orbit,

and with launch pad compatibility testing at the Tyuratam Space Assembly and Launch complex of the heavy-lift booster designed for the USSR's space shuttle and for space station payloads in excess of 100 tons.

- The Mach 2, all-weather, air superiorty Su-27/FLANKER fighter/interceptor has now become operational, joining the MiG-29/FLANKER in the new generation of highly advanced Soviet combat aircraft, combat aircraft with vital components made possible by stolen Western technology.

As was reported in 1985, the United States Government has documented a massive, well-organized campaign by the Soviet Union to acquire Western technology illegally and legally for its weapons and military equipment projects. Each year Moscow received thousands of pieces of Western equipment and many tens of thousands of unclassified, classified, and proprietary documents as part of this campaign. Virtually every Soviet military research project—well over 4,000 each year in the late 1970s and over 5,000 in the early 1980s—benefits from these technical documents and hardware. The assimilation of Western technology is so broad that the United States and other Western nations are thus subsidizing the Soviet military buildup.

Soviet Military Power 1986 provides a current, authoritative assessment of Soviet strategic, theater and conventional force developments, of the doctrine guiding these developments and of the structure dedicated to the support of Soviet military power. This year's edition details Soviet non-compliance with arms control agreements and the threats to peace now posed by the USSR's role in regional conflicts. Aggression by Soviet troops or their proxies and puppets in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Angola, Ethiopia and Nicaragua cannot be ignored by nations that believe in freedom.

Finally, *Soviet Military Power 1986* reports on the US policies and programs, and the policies and programs we have embarked on with our Allies, to meet the continuing Soviet challenge. The communique issued at the conclusion of the December 1985 NATO Defense Planning Committee meetings presented an important summary statement of the progress we are realizing. "We are convinced that a continued strong and united Alliance is essential for achieving our goal of peace and security at the lowest possible level of forces. The objective of NATO's strategy of flexible response and forward defense is the prevention of all war. Nuclear weapons play an essential part in achieving this objective. But we are determined to strengthen the credibility of our strategy by avoiding an undue reliance on the early use of nuclear weapons through the special effort to improve our conventional capabilities." In keeping with this vital objective *Soviet Military Power 1986* reports on the steps being taken to modernize the strategic deterrent of the United States, the capabilities of our conventional forces, and our research through the Strategic Defense Initiative into defensive technologies that may permit us one day to transform the strategic order so that the threat of nuclear offensive forces and nuclear mass destruction can be drastically reduced and eventually eliminated.

Caspar W. Weinberger
Secretary of Defense